

OGC 62-3059

3 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Report on CIA Relations with Congress - 1962

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Now that the 87th Congress has adjourned and the elections are over, it seems appropriate to review the Agency's relations with the Congress during the second session. Briefings and meetings with congressional committees reached an all-time high in the history of the Agency totalling 32 occasions. (See Tab A for chronological listing.) In addition, in connection with the proposed release of the Cuban prisoners and in connection with the military build-up in Cuba, a series of personal meetings and briefings were conducted. Lists of these individual briefings are attached as Tabs B and C, respectively.
3. The purpose of the committee meetings ranged from the confirmation hearings of the DCI and the DDCI to the open hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee at which Francis Gary Powers was surfaced. Also included were the customary briefings of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and briefings of the leadership of the Congress at the White House on several occasions. For the first time in a number of years, CIA sponsored amendments to the CIA Act which were put before the Congress in connection with an improved retirement system. Hearings were held before the full House Armed Services Committee in executive session but the Committee did not take further action due to time limitations. An unusual feature of committee briefings were the two briefings conducted before the combined Senate Foreign Relations and Senate Armed Services Committees and a subsequent session with combined committees of House

Foreign Affairs and House Armed Services Committees. The principal briefers were Secretary Rusk with assistance from the Department of Defense - McNamara in one case and William Bundy in another - and General Carter. These briefings were on the military build-up in Cuba.

4. The CIA Subcommittees were considerably more active in the second session than in prior years. The two Subcommittees of the Armed Services Committees met almost monthly on CIA matters.

a. With the retirement from Congress of Representative Kilday who had chaired the CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services, Mr. Vinson resumed the chairmanship and also brought on to the Subcommittee the second ranking majority member, Mr. L. Mendel Rivers. Mr. Vinson announced at the first meeting in January that he hoped to have an active Subcommittee and planned to hold monthly meetings. In part this was based on his desire to build a record against proponents for a Joint Committee for Intelligence and probably in part was also based on some of the issues raised in connection with the confirmation of the DCI on the Senate side. The House Armed Services Subcommittee met with the Agency six times during the second session as against four times during the first session. On the other hand, the CIA Subcommittee of House Appropriations met with the Agency three times during the second session while it had met with us seven times during the first session.

b. Reflecting Senator Russell's growing responsibilities for appropriations matters, all sessions of the CIA Subcommittees of Senate Armed Services and Senate Appropriations were joint sessions. During the second session there were six such meetings as against one such meeting in the first session. The death of Senator Bridges created vacancies on our Subcommittees of Senate Appropriations and Senate Armed Services. The vacancy on Appropriations was filled by Milton R. Young of North Dakota but on Armed Services the Chairman saw fit not to fill the vacancy which, based on precedent seniority, would have gone to Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine.

c. The retirement of Representative John Taber as ranking minority member of House Appropriations leaves a vacancy on the CIA Subcommittee and, if precedent is followed, this will be filled by Ben Jensen of Iowa. Representative Van Zandt's unsuccessful bid for a Senate seat leaves a vacancy on the CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services. There is no firm precedent for filling his vacancy but it appears likely Representative William H. Bates of Massachusetts will be appointed.

5. The routine and day-to-day work with Congress has continued to increase gradually. Queries from individual congressmen for information, assistance and personnel referrals are part of the daily routine. In addition, it is pointed out that during the 87th Congress, the total number of bills, resolutions and other measures reached an over-all total of more than 20,000. In addition, reports from committees on bills and other reports totalled over 5,000 during the 87th Congress. All of these require screening or review in one degree or another. Specific legislation in the second session which required attention included the Communications Reciprocity Act, the President's Federal Pay Reform bill and the unsuccessful bill to establish another Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence.

6. In the forthcoming year there will be action required in connection with improvement of our retirement program. Detailed work is going forward today to have this legislation in final draft form to submit to the Congress early in January. In addition, during the past year the Ad Hoc Committee of USIB has prepared a draft bill incorporating a new concept of protection of intelligence information. This will be reported in the very near future to USIB for its approval. Thereafter, necessary legislative processing will be required and it is anticipated that this legislation will not be free from controversy thus requiring extended consideration both within the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. A further item will be the second and broader phase of the President's Salary Reform Program. Work is proceeding in the Administration on a recommended program for an Executive Pay Bill and the second phase adjustments on the supergrades and possibly other of the higher grades. Of principal importance to the Agency in this connection is the eventual placement of the DCI and the DDCI in the Executive Branch hierarchy.

7. Despite some reflections of lack of confidence in the Agency and notwithstanding a hard-core belief in a Joint Committee for Intelligence, it is believed that the Agency's standing with the Congress has in fact improved during the past year. There seems to be no basic changes required in the Agency's approach to its relationship with the Congress with the possible exception of the presentation of our budget. This is being actively worked on by the Comptroller's office in conjunction with this office and others. Since there have already been some calls for congressional investigation of the role of intelligence in the Cuban crisis, it is possible there may be an effort to institute an investigation when the Congress assembles. Therefore, it is believed the Agency should take the initiative with our Subcommittees in order to review with them the role of the Agency and the intelligence community in the Soviet/Cuban crisis.

s/ John S. Warner
JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

Atts - 3

Tab A, B, and C

Distribution:

Original - Addressees

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

2 - Legislative Counsel

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